

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01 A-01
SY-05 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /055 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: NICOLAE CALL ON LUERS: CEAUSESCU VISIT AND
MULTI-YEAR MFN

1. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LUERS LATE NOVEMBER 10 AND RAISED (A) THE NEED FOR A USG
PROPOSAL ON DATES FOR THE CEAUSESCU VISIT AND (B) USG
FOLLOW-UP TO THE PATAN VISIT ON MULTI-YEAR MFN.

2. NICOLAE TOLD LUERS THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY FOR-
EIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU TO CALL AT THE DEPARTMENT TO
"INSIST" THAT WE PROVIDE THE PROPOSED DATES FOR PRESIDENT
CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO THE U.S. HE REFERRED TO THE
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MACOVESCU IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER
29 AND TO THE SECRETARY'S ASSURANCE THAT A RESPONSE
ON DATES WOULD BE GIVEN IN A SHORT TIME. COUNSELOR NIMETZ
HAD ALSO PROMISED TO PROVIDE DATES FOR THE VISIT, AND LAST
WEEK DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATAN HAD AGAIN RAISED THIS
ISSUE WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. NOTING THAT UNCERTAINTY
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OVER THE U.S. VISIT WAS CAUSING GREAT DIFFICULTY IN
BUCHAREST IN ARRANGING CEAUSESCU'S SCHEDULE FOR 1978,
NICOLAE REPEATED THAT HE HAD COME TO INSIST ON AN ANSWER.

3. LUERS ASSURED NICOLAE THAT WE HAD BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING
ON THIS QUESTION, BUT INDICATED THAT SINCE THE TIMING OF

THIS VISIT RELATED TO THE PRESIDENT'S OVERALL SCHEDULE NEXT YEAR, WE COULD ONLY DO SO MUCH UNTIL HIS PLANS FIRMED UP. NEVERTHELESS, HE PROMISED NICOLAE THAT WE WOULD RAISE THIS MATTER ONCE AGAIN ON AN URGENT BASIS.

4. AFTER ASKING FOR LUERS' APPRAISAL OF PATAN'S RECENTLY CONCLUDED VISIT -- WHICH LUERS DESCRIBED AS A DEFINITE SUCCESS AS A RESULT OF PATAN'S EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE IN HIS MEETINGS -- NICOLAE ZEROED IN ON THE QUESTION OF WHAT NEXT ON MULTI-YEAR MFN. HE SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO USE THE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED BY PATAN'S VISIT TO TRANSLATE THIS GOOD WILL TOWARD ROMANIA INTO CONCRETE RESULTS. LUERS EXPLAINED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DO THIS GIVEN THE OBSTACLE OF THE TRADE ACT, WHICH NO ONE ON THE HILL WANTED TO OPEN UP FOR AMENDMENT. PATAN'S OBVIOUS CHARM AND EFFECTIVENESS, IN HIS CALLS ON THE HILL, HAD APPARENTLY CAUSED SOME SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN TO BE LESS THAN FRANK ABOUT ITS OBSTACLE, LUERS SUGGESTED. FURTHERMORE, IT APPEARED THAT SOME OF THEM HAD FAILED TO IMPRESS UPON PATAN THE DEGREE OF CONCERN OVER JEWISH EMIGRATION WHICH WE BELIEVE STILL PLAYS A CONSIDERABLE ROLE IN CONGRESS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WAIVER MECHANISM. NEVERTHELESS, LUERS ASSURED NICOLAE, WE DEFINITELY INTEND TO FOLLOW UP ON THE APPARENT INROADS PATAN HAS MADE TO SEE IF THERE IS IN FACT A GREATER WILLINGNESS TO ACT THAN WE HAVE HERETOFORE

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OBSERVED FROM OUR OWN CONTACT WITH THE HILL. (NICOLAE SAID THAT HE, TOO, WOULD PURSUE THIS ISSUE WITH CERTAIN SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN.)

5. LUERS ALSO WENT OVER IN SOME DETAIL THE DIFFICULTY OF COMING UP WITH AN APPROPRIATE FORMULA WHICH IS "DO-ABLE" ON THE HILL. HE ASSURED NICOLAE THAT WE WERE SEIZED WITH THIS PROBLEM AND WERE DOING OUR BEST TO COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS WHICH COULD GET AROUND THE RELUCTANCE OF BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO OPEN UP THE TRADE ACT TO ENDLESS AMENDMENTS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD NOT YET FOUND THE ANSWER AND THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AN EARLY SOLUTION.

6. ABOVE MEMCON NOT CLEARED BY LUERS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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